

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending.

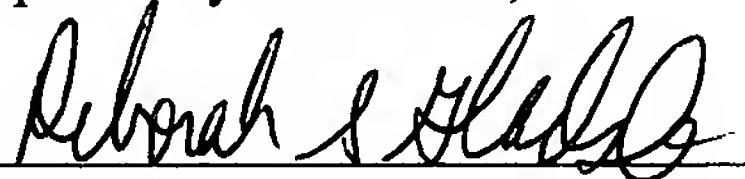
Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirukawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,670,643. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hirukawa is not a valid reference under 35 USC 102(e). The filing date of Hirukawa is December 17, 2002. The foreign priority dates claimed in this application are July 1 and July 18, 2002, which are before the filing date of the cited reference. Applicants previously submitted a verified translation of the Japanese Application 2002-209795 filed July 18, 2002, to perfect the claim for foreign priority. Therefore, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 204552028900.

Dated: June 12, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Deborah S. Gladstein

Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 760-7753